

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total cost involved in procurement of these pieces and criteria adopted for procurement of such system?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) About 12800 Multi Access Radio Relay Systems have been procured so far.

(b) to (d) The requirement for the year 1997-98 is about 3420 systems. The requirement for subsequent years has not been assessed.

(e) The total cost involved for 3420 systems is about Rs. 134 crores. The systems are being procured through an open tendering process;

#### **Introduction of Train between Bhubaneswar and Mumbai**

2597. SHRI BHAKTACHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request/proposal from Orissa for introduction of second train from Bhubaneswar to Mumbai and provision of one 3 tier A.C. and three second class sleeper coaches in Bhubaneswar-Mumbai Konark Express;

(b) if so, since when such request is pending with the Government; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Some representations were received for provision of an Express train to Mumbai from Bhubaneswar and provision of A.C. - 3 tier sleeper coaches in 1019/1020 Konark Express. These have been examined.

With effect from 01.07.97, 1019/1020 Konark Express is running with 1 AC- Three tier and 10 sleeper coaches. Its load has also been augmented from 15 to 16 coaches. However it has not been found feasible to introduce an additional service between Bhubaneswar and Mumbai due to Operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

#### **Gauge Conversion**

2598. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for delay in the conversion of Hotagi-Bijapur and Bijapur-Gadag rail lines into broad gauge;

(b) the earlier target for completion of the said gauge conversions;

(c) whether the said works have been included in the priority list of railways; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Constraint of resources.

(b) The earlier target date for Bijapur-Hotgi section was December 1996 while for Bijapur-Gadag section it had not been fixed. The work will now be completed on Bijapur-Hotgi section by December, 1997 and on the rest of the section two years later.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **STD/ISD Telephone Booths**

2599. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications lying pending for STD/ISD telephone booths in the all telecommunication circles of Bihar, circle-wise;

(b) the names of circles for which advisory committees have been set up for the allotment of STD/ISD booths;

(c) the number of persons applied for STD/ISD booth in Sasaram circle and the dates on which their applications were received by the office;

(d) the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(e) the action taken against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, the applications pending for STD/ISD telephone booths in various SSAs of Bihar circle are given in the Annexure.

(b) STD PCO allotment committees have been reconstituted in all the 17 SSAs of Bihar Telecom Circle as per Statement attached.

(c) Sir, In Sasaram SSA, a total of 685 persons applied for STD/ISD booths progressively since the introduction of scheme.

(d) The STD PCO connections are released progressively subject to eligibility and technical feasibility.

(e) Does not arise as there is no erring official.